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**THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE**

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

**National Intelligence Council**


NIC #10215-82  
17 December 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence  
THROUGH: Chairman, National Intelligence Council  
FROM: Maurice C. Ernst  
National Intelligence Officer for Economics  
SUBJECT: My Role in Economic Warning--A Sequel

1. At the conclusion of our last meeting on this topic, you said there were some things you wanted to consider. Subsequently, I tried to see John McMahon, but was unable to do so before he left on his trip. I would appreciate your guidance before proceeding further.

2. The point was made during the discussion that warning is in any event an important part of my functions as an NIO and that I did not need added authority. This is true, and I am not seeking new authority. In view of your expressed interest in this matter, however, I felt I needed to report to you on my activities and plans to determine whether they were generally in accord with your objectives. I also need your or John McMahon's specific authorization to add four or five outside consultants who can help tap private sector judgment and expertise. I have talked to several possible candidates and three have tentatively accepted. As you know, I discussed these tentative plans with Leo Cherne, who is urging the DDI and myself to move quickly on economic warning.

3. I would very much appreciate your guidance on whether I should: (a) proceed to make some commitments to consultants; (b) discuss this warning matter further with you; or (c) wait until John McMahon returns and see him first.

  
Maurice C. Ernst

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